

CHARLES EDWIN SLEIGHT.

By W. M. T. DAVIS,

NEW BRIGHTON, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

A real naturalist is generally a born one and the life of Charles Edwin Sleight is only another illustration of the accepted statement. He was born May 26, 1860, in Yonkers, Westchester County, N. Y., and started to make natural history collections at an early age. He attended the public schools, and later became an architect, establishing himself in business at Paterson, New Jersey. In his spare time he took great pleasure in mounting his birds and mammals in natural positions, and was always much interested in the technical part of the treatment and preservation of specimens. Later when he became more of a collector of insects, he devised a cheap and effective type of box for his specimens, a box of the same size for the preservation of alcoholic material in bottles, and a simple plan for mounting small insects on the usual card points. This last consists of an oblong block of wood with two parallel rows of holes about an inch apart. After laying the specimens on their backs in a row on the edge of the block, it is only necessary to apply the freshly glue-tipped point in the usual way and drop the head end of the pin in one of the holes. The insect will thus be held in position while drying, which takes but a few minutes. The Sleight method is a neat and speedy one for mounting small insects, and worthy of being generally followed.

When the warm days of summer came Mr. Sleight often went camping. As he generally had several buildings to look after, he thought it best not to go too far away from home, and so was content to have his camp in some near retreat where he could reach his business when necessary, and ramble about the woods the remainder of the time. Of recent years he had a regular summer camp on the shores of Lake Hopatcong, N. J., to which many of his entomological friends were invited. This was his chief camp, which was also visited by his family, but on occasions one or both of his sons, and generally a friend, would seek some out-of-the-way place for the mystery or adventure that lingers about a forest pond or a lonely valley. It was through Mr. Sleight's cooperation in loaning tents that the camp of entomologists at Lakehurst, N. J., in July, 1909, was made possible, and it was he who suggested the wagon journey devoted to collecting entomological material in northern New Jersey, which took place in May, 1910.

Mr. Sleight was interested in entomology in general, but more particularly in the Trichoptera, and he spent much time in rearing a number of species that frequented the brooks and ponds about his home at Ramsey, N. J. An interesting paper of his observations on these insects is to be found in the *JOURNAL OF THE N. Y. ENTO. Soc.* for March, 1913.

He was a member of the Brooklyn and New York entomological societies, and served the former as its delegate to the council of the New York Academy

of Sciences, to which society he had the honor of being elected a Fellow in 1913. In September, 1913, Mr. Sleight visited the east coast of Florida, collecting at several points from Jacksonville to Key West. At that time he was not in good health and was able to be afield but part of each day. Gradually he grew more feeble, and died at Ramsey, May 20, 1917.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Records of Butterflies from Ft. Wadsworth, Staten Island, N. Y.—*Basilarchia ursula*, form *albofascinata* Newc. A female was collected, September 4, 1917. Two others have been recorded from Staten Island. See List of the Macrolepidoptera of Staten Island, N. Y., Proc. S. I. Assn. of Arts and Sciences, Vol. III, p. 5, and JOURNAL N. Y. ENT. SOC., Vol. XXIV, p. 93. *Libythea bachmani* Kirt., August 29, 1917. *Papilio cresphontes* Cram., August 26, 1917, and September 2, 1917. The last two species have also been recorded from Staten Island in the list above referred to, but following Dyar's list of 1902 the *Papilio* was there given as *thoas* L., *cresphontes* being at that time considered a synonym.—EDWARD J. BURNS.

***Cicindela abdominalis* Fab.**—On August 5, 1913, a single specimen of this tiger beetle was collected near Bald Hill, southwest of Riverhead, Long Island. On August 21, 1914, seven specimens were collected on a sand path that runs parallel to the Permic River on its southerly side. In August, 1917, no specimen could be found on the sand path, but two were taken near Great Pond, one on the road leading from Riverhead.—WM. T. DAVIS.

***Holcaspis centricola* Osten Sacken.**—From Farmingdale, Long Island, N. Y., Sept. 27, 1917. Found on post oak (*Quercus minor*). When fresh the gall is marked very beautifully with reddish spots. It has been reported from Washington, D. C., New Jersey and Indiana. We have found it on several occasions at Lakehurst, N. J., but never before in N. Y. State.—WM. T. DAVIS.

***Rhodites gracilis* Ashm.**—Collected on rose leaves at Litchfield, Conn., Aug. 25, 1917, by Louis B. Woodruff. This appears to be a rare gall and is figured by Beutenmuller in Bulletin Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXIII, p. 47, and Bull. Br. Ent. Soc., IX, pl. 5, fig. 10. It has been found at Evanston, Ill., and Toronto, Can., on species of *Rosa*. The gall flies were reared in May, 1870.—WM. T. DAVIS.